

2010 Survey of Femdom Perceptions and Ideals



- *Where they seek partners*
- *How many are looking*
- *Who requires "tribute"?*
- *Opinions on fetish attire*
- *....more*

Introduction

I've always wondered what other femdoms think.

What do they think about relationships? What do they think about Internet culture? Where do they find submissive partners? What do they think of some of the stereotypes involving lifestyle domination?

After 15 years of sharing my stories (and fantasies), lifestyle frustrations and triumphs, offering relationship ideas and help and listening to feedback from other femdoms and submissives as well, I decided to issue an informal survey to explore some of the common perceptions about female dominants and their expectations.

Some of the answers may surprise you. They surprised me. While this survey is by no means scientific, it does address some of the common topics, and perhaps can be a starting point for more meaningful discussion about lifestyle perceptions.

Methodology

"Perceptions and Ideals of Lifestyle Dominant Women" is not a scientific study. A total of 225 self-identified dominant women completed the survey between June 2010 and August 2010. Survey respondents were solicited through Internet channels targeting lifestyle dominant women, including message boards and Akasha's Web, arguably one of the legacy sites of femdom erotica and articles on the Web, active since 1995 and visited more than 1.8 million times.

About the Author

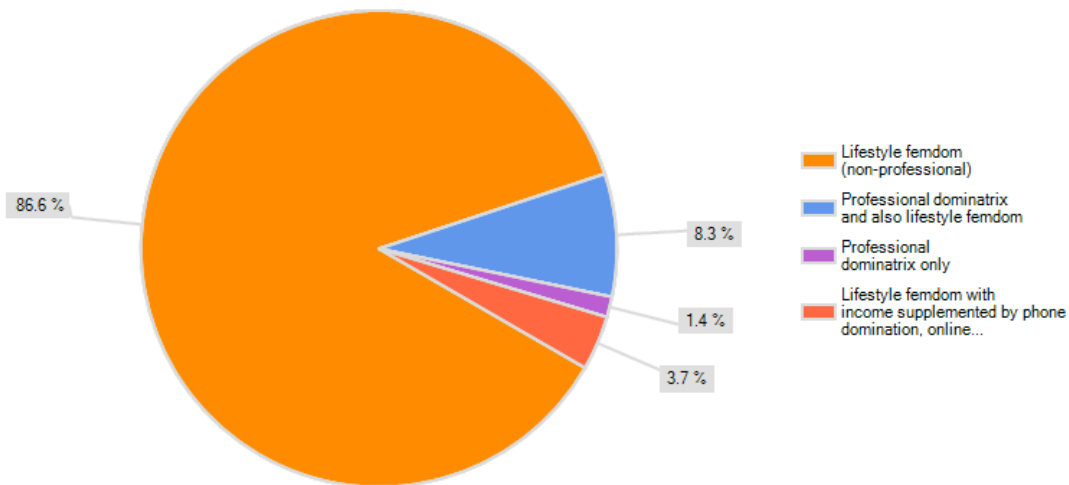
Akasha is a lifestyle dominant woman who started "Akasha's Web" in 1995 and has been posting original erotica, relationship articles and online trainings for more than 15 years. Akasha's Web is the home of Akasha's "Good Girl's Guide to Domination," one of the most highly referenced articles for single women and couples new to power exchange.

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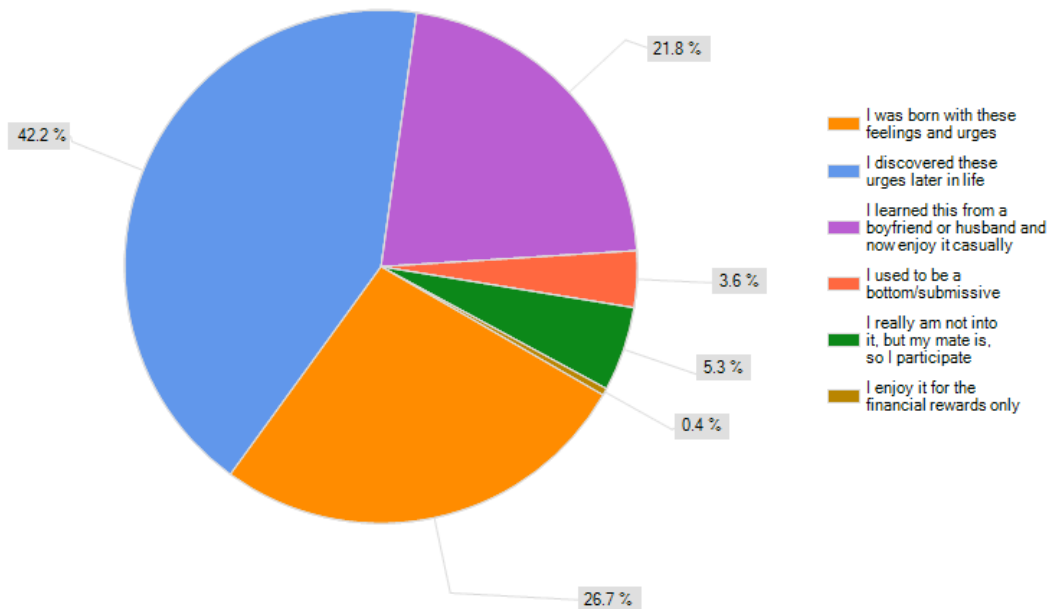
Q. What is your interest in female domination?



Clearly, the majority of the femdoms surveyed self-identify as “lifestyle femdoms” (86.6%), or women who practice female domination without expectation of financial rewards. Only 1.4% classified themselves as a “professional dominatrix,” while 3.7% admitted some financial rewards associated with domination. It can be assumed that some of these women engage in activities include telephone or online domination, but it is not their primary source of income or the reason that they engage in female domination as a lifestyle choice.

Call out box: 86.6% of the femdoms surveyed considered themselves lifestyle dominant women, not professional dominatrixes

Q. What best describes your interest in female domination?



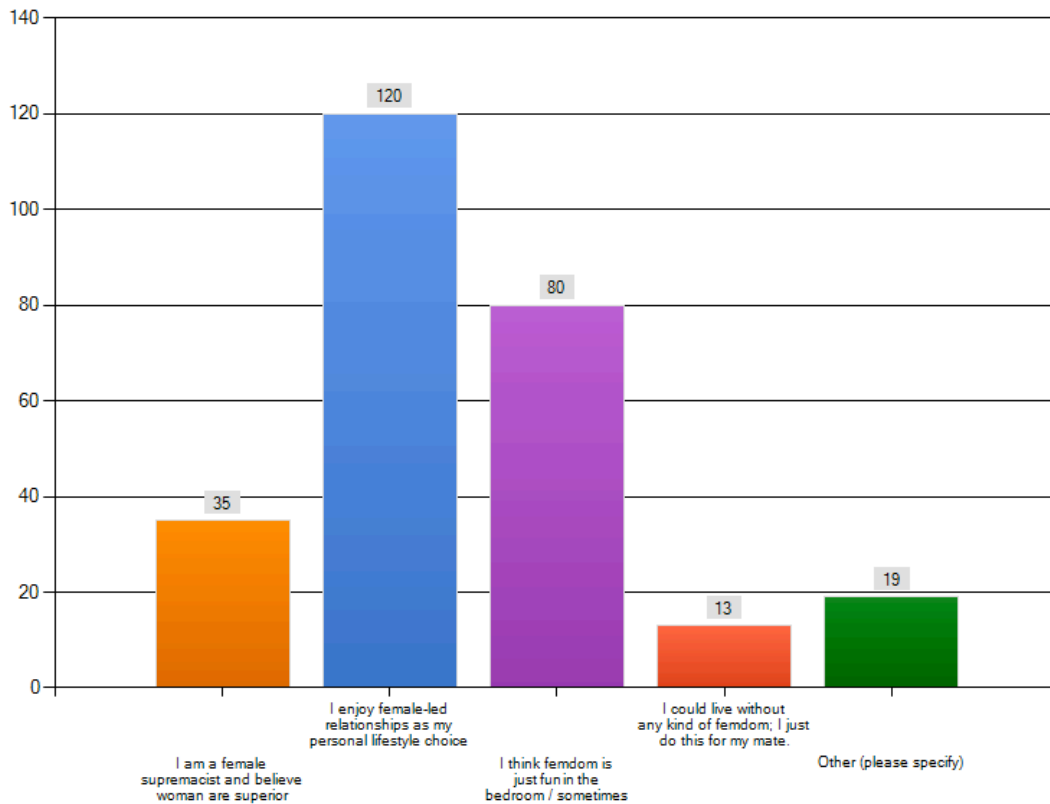
Not surprisingly, roughly 20% of the women surveyed were introduced to female domination by their submissive partners. That they are still active in the lifestyle and consider themselves femdoms is positive. Those who claim that dominant women are only in it for the financial rewards should take note – less than one percent stated this as a reason, and only about 5% are simply going along with it to please their mate.

Good news for subs? Roughly 68% of the women surveyed are interested in female domination “organically” – either they were born with the urges, or discovered them later on in life.

Quote Box:

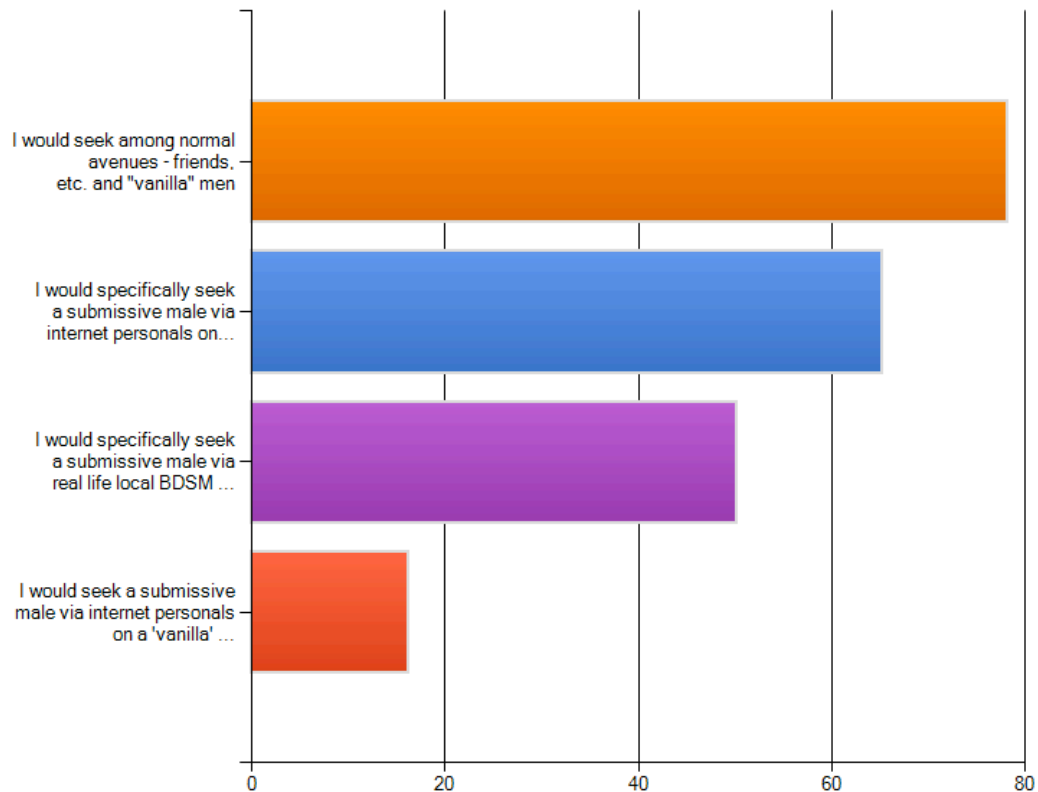
"I enjoy it more than just casually. My boyfriend awakened the dom feelings in me and now I can't get enough." - Tammy

Q. What best describes your philosophical views of femdom? (Check all that apply)



Once again, it appears that only a small percent of those surveyed participate in female domination activities solely for her mate (13). More than half of the respondents stated that they enjoyed female-led relationships as their personal lifestyle choice, while 80 enjoy their femdom in the bedroom only. Only 35 self identified as “female supremacists.”

Q. If you were to seek a new submissive partner, where would you look primarily?

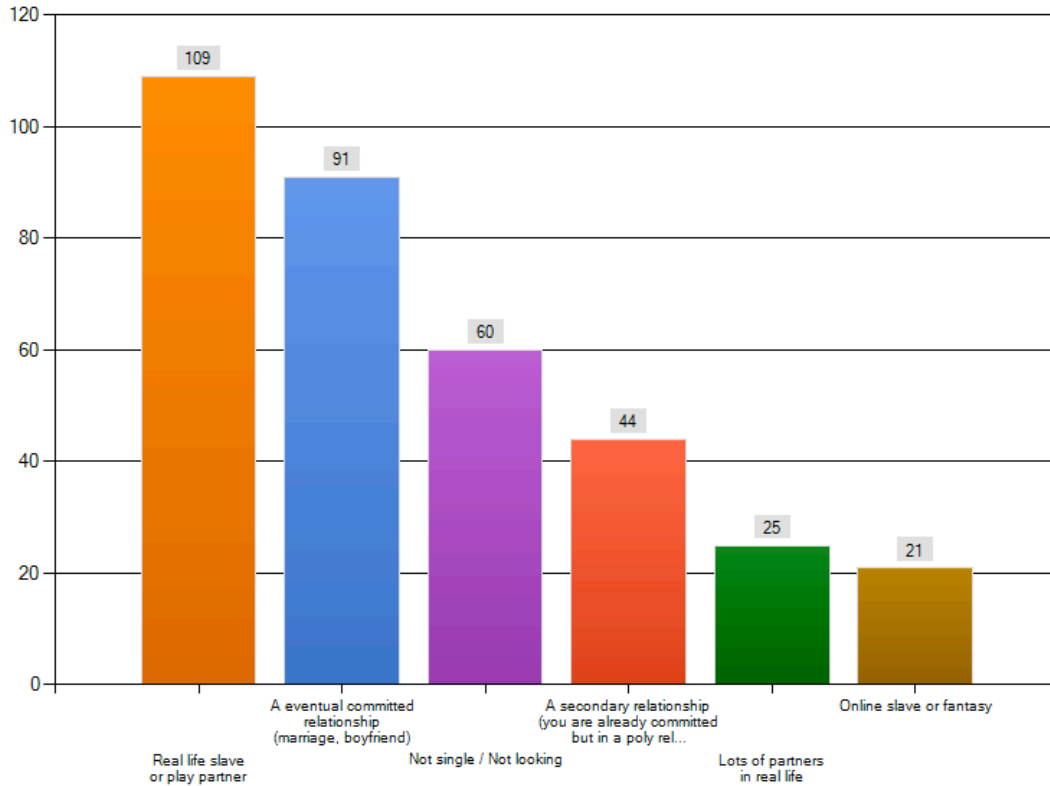


If submissive men who are seeking dominant partners do so by both attending BDSM events and munches as well as using Internet BDSM-based personals, they still are only reaching roughly 55% of the femdoms surveyed, based on how they seek partners.

What is this illusive other category, "I would seek among normal avenues, etc. and vanilla friends?" Perhaps it's another indication that dominant women seek chemistry first, kink second. It also means submissive men need to continue to pay close attention to women they meet and attract in daily life – perhaps that closet femdom is seeking and you just don't know it!

Quote Box: *"I seek far more than just a submissive male, but the male that I pick would have to be submissive."* - Aberrant Goddess

Q. If you are single or “looking,” what describes best what you seek?

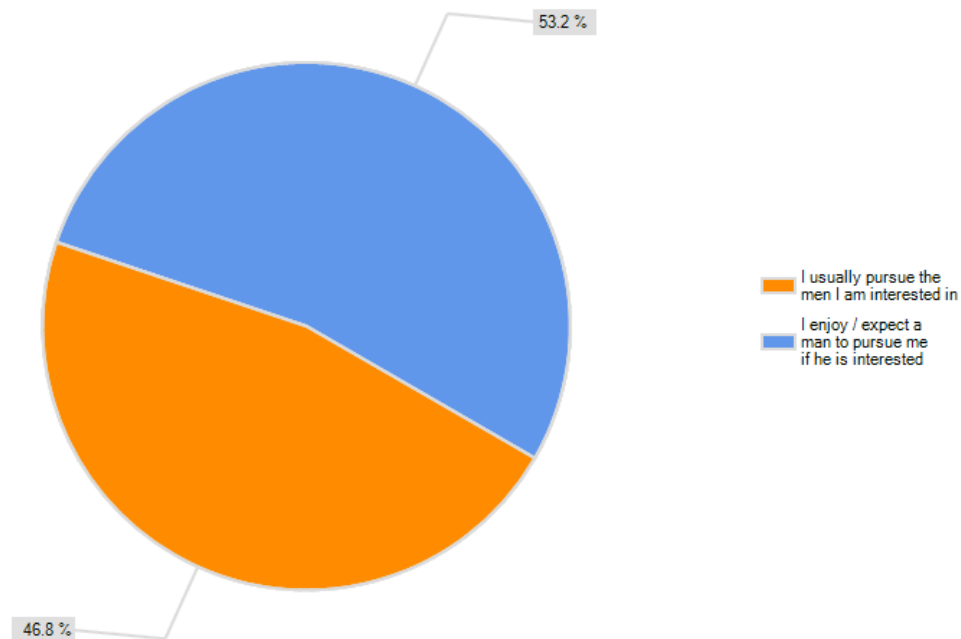


There are a lot of women seeking submissive men, and very few of them are looking for an online-only relationship, much to the dismay of the many submissive men who like a little online fantasy with no strings attached and no prospects of meeting.

But this is good news for submissive men who are seeking real life, committed partners, either for eventual long term relationships or to be a third in an existing relationship. Of the femdoms surveyed, there’s no shortage of women seeking submissive companionship in the flesh.

Call out box: *Most women surveyed are looking for a real life partner or committed relationship. Fewer women were seeking any kind of online slave or fantasy.*

Q. What best describes the way you believe a new femdom relationships generally begins, or what is more comfortable for you personally? By pursue, we mean initiate contact, ask out on dates, etc.

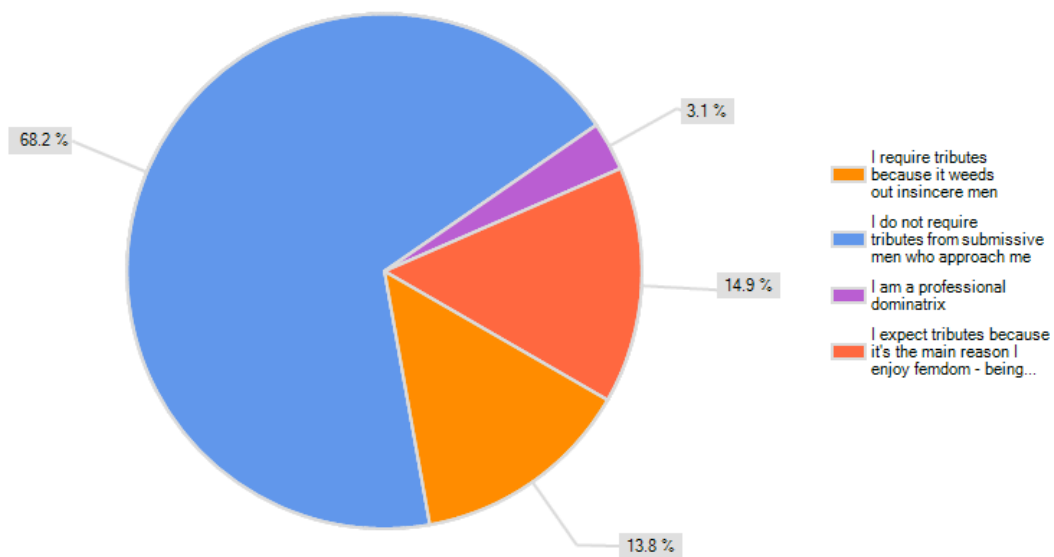


The age old question of courtship rituals seems to present a challenge for submissive men. Who does the courting? Who initiates contact? Who asks out the other person on dates? Submissive men may believe that the dominant one in the relationship is the one initially taking the reins, so to speak, but many femdoms disagree. Slightly edging out the other option, 53% of femdoms expect the submissive male to take the lead in courting. While one could split hair regarding what this means, it's still clear that 46% of the women surveyed do want to take control, so for painfully shy subs, perhaps this is good news.

Many femdoms added that they don't mind a mix of both. What seems to be most clear is that they don't expect or desire to be the driving force behind the courting process.

Quote Box: *"I don't mind making the initial contact but if the male sub is interested, I expect him to continue showing interest."* – Shewolf

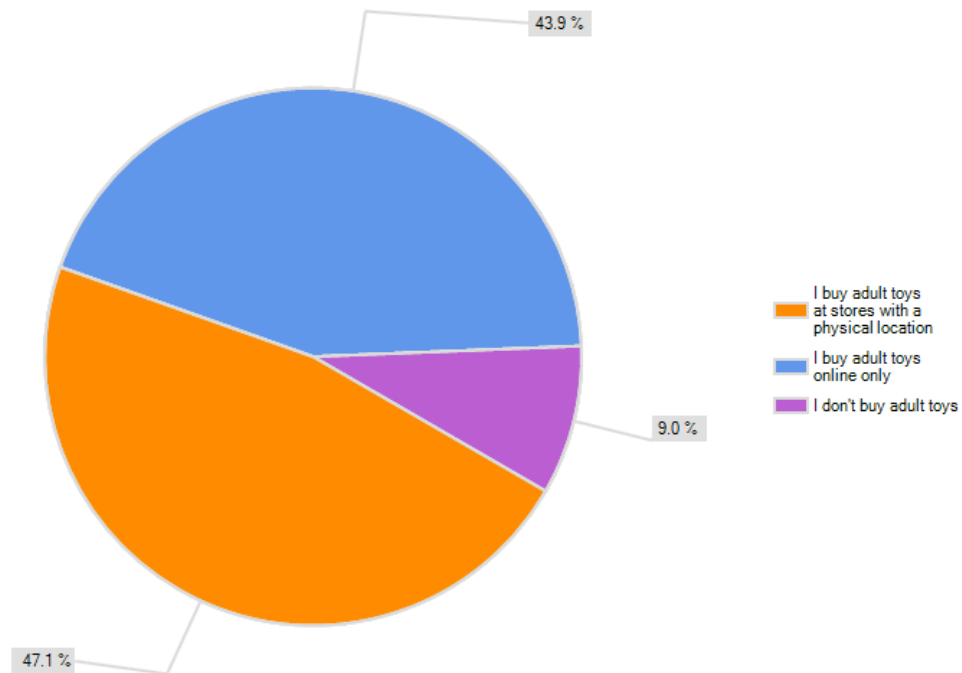
Q. What is your viewpoint on tributes or gifts? (Gifts required by a woman, who is not a professional dominatrix, before she will begin contact with a submissive male via the Internet or in person)



Apparently, the stereotype that all femdoms are “in it for the money” isn’t ringing true for nearly 70% of the women surveyed. Many clarified that while they enjoy receiving gifts, the gifts are not mandatory, but are appreciated.

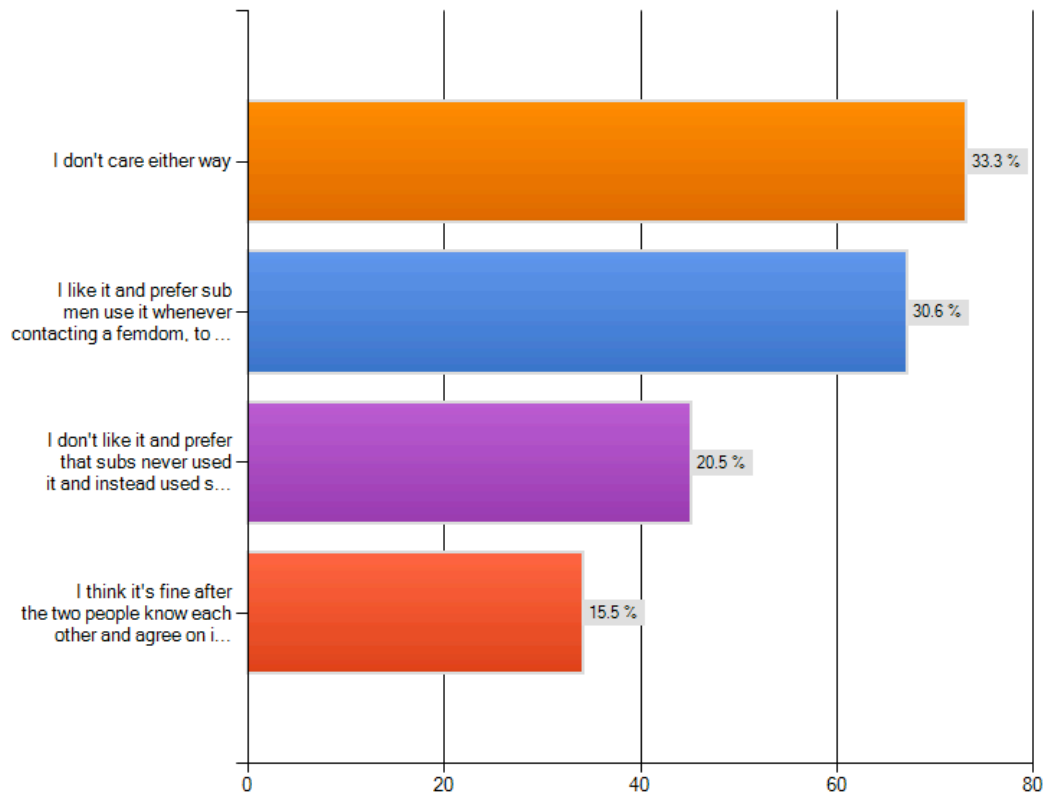
Quote box: *"If I'm already in a "play or more" relationship with someone and they express a desire to give me gifts, I allow it. But I never require it, and actually forbid it from submissives I don't know well."* - Miss Miyani

Q. Do you purchase adult toys (more often) online or at stores?



There's a fairly high comfort level for women who wish to shop for adult products in traditional brick and mortar stores. Some have suggested that women are uncomfortable about buying adult products and prefer to do so online; 43% of the femdoms surveyed prefer shopping online for adult toys. For submissive men who like toys, the good news is that only 9% of the femdoms surveyed don't buy toys at all.

Q. What is your position on i/I, y/You style of online or written communication – when a submissive uses lowercase and refers to the dominant as upper case?

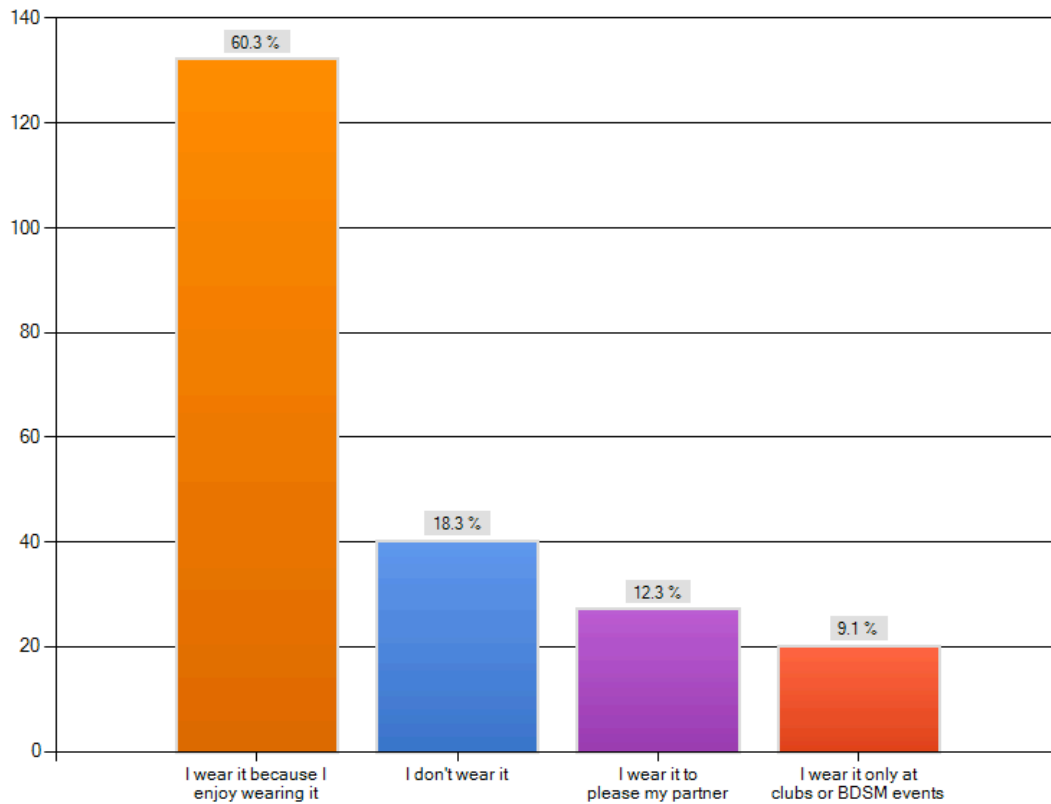


A hotly debated topic on message boards and online forums is the use of grammar protocol. It can be a polarizing issue, and a confusing area for submissive men to navigate; when contacting a potential femdom, should he stick to normal conventions of grammar, or use all lowercase when referring to himself? Does he risk offending the high protocol femdom, or does he risk the dreaded “eyeroll” from the non-high-protocol femdom?

It’s a minefield for submissive men, and there’s no safe route. While most femdoms don’t care either way (33.3%), a third still prefer it. Only 20% indicated that they did not like the use of protocol grammar.

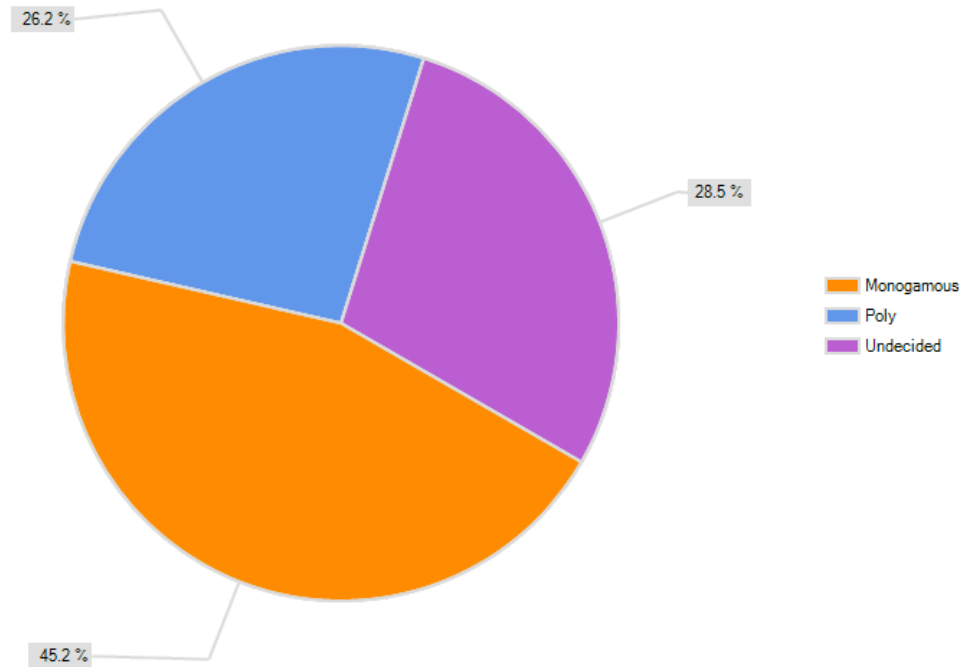
The safest bet? When all else fails, just ask!

Q. What is your opinion on fetish attire?



Women who self-identify as female dominants appear to enjoy wearing fetish clothes – and for no other purpose than that they like it. Only 12.3% of the women surveyed wear it with the specific intent to please their partner. While dominant women have often pushed back against the stereotypes of the “dominatrix clad in leather,” apparently many femdoms actually enjoy wearing fetish attire – when it is on their own terms.

Q. What relationship preference best fits you?



Submissive men who are “holding out” in hopes of connecting with a long term partner for a conventional relationship or marriage will be relieved to know that 45.2% of the women survey still prefer monogamy. Only 26.2% of the women surveyed are specifically looking for a relationship that could be considered “poly,” while 28.5% are not sure yet what they are seeking.